

PAWG Headquarters Update by Lt Col Bob Meinert, PAWG/EX

New CAPF 108, 7 & 7T – NHQ announced at the close of the last fiscal year that there would be new forms out for mission and orientation ride reimbursement. They are out now and are in use. Please ensure that all of your unit members are aware and start using them. According to the instructions, older versions are not valid. The reason for the new forms stems from the Air Force and CAP agreements and Statement of Work. This requires us to be even more circumspect that the missions and orientation rides are done correctly and as briefed, with the proper receipts and documentation filed. Copies of the new forms are included with this mailing. They are also available through the links on the National website.

Homeland Security & Rapid Response – With the nation at Orange – the high level of alert - the question of Rapid Response and mission activation is on many members minds. In the Electronic Update from NHQ for the week ending 14 February, there are a number of good preparation ideas and suggestions. Please review the items and be vigilant. This is the time to ensure our aircraft and vehicles are ready to go and our members are prepared. As the Update points out a big part of that may be ensuring our families and employers are also pre-briefed. Those who have volunteered to be available through Rapid Response should contact their alerting chain that they are ready and available or in cases where their availability changes. The recent snow has added an extra challenge in making sure our equipment; vehicles and aircraft are both available and mission ready. Please plan ahead.

Some ideas in the Electronic Update are good for all of us to review. Any incident could easily go beyond the initial rapid response. We all should have our 101 cards up to date, our ID cards in hand (and renewed if renewal is imminent) and our other papers up to date (driver's license, insurance, etc.) to eliminate unnecessary delays. Having some cash on hand and an available credit card is also a good idea. An overnight bag or field gear for 3 to 4 days as well as a mission kit is invaluable.

Our Homeland Security Missions indicate that good ground support is as essential as qualified aircrews. Communications both tactically and strategically is critical. Our ability to back up national and state command authority communications becomes important at all levels once situations develop. Our roles support state and federal agencies. More than ever we need to be "Always Vigilant".

State Budget Crisis – The War on Terror, the terrorist attacks, heightened security and the effects on the economy have affected not just the federal budget but also many of the states. Pennsylvania is not immune. Governor Rendell has announced large budget cuts affecting this year and potentially next year. The last election placed a new governor at the helm and added many new elected Senators and Representatives to the General Assembly. Many of these may not know the value CAP brings to their constituents, their local communities and to the Commonwealth. This is the time for you as voting constituents to make an appointment in your local Senator and Representative's offices to make sure he understands the value of what you do. As we discussed in the Homeland Security section above, in disaster relief, in Search as Rescue, in Counter Drug and Drug Demand Reduction, in developing young leaders through our Cadet Program, we have an important and valuable role in the Commonwealth. Unfortunately, with the press of other business, our Governor or legislators may not see the value until we are actually needed to respond. The value of a visit from a CAP Senior member and a cadet to your own representative can not be over rated. It makes a big impact and is more necessary during this budget deficit than it has been in many years. If you need any help in planning your visit, letters or calls, please contact me at Wing HQ.

Logistics – It is that time when requirements are due at Wing HQ for supply and logistics. Annual Requirements Lists ("Wish Lists"), Real Estate Surveys, Lease Renewals (if appropriate) and Other paperwork that may have changed such as orders appointing new supply officers and Transfer of Responsibility statements. Also look to be sure that Form 37s have been re-validated. If you have any questions, please contact Capt. Gene Steffanus, PAWG/LG.